THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Varishta Bima Yojana

1467. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently launched Varishta Bima Yojana has elicited good response and if so, to what extent in terms of funds gathered;

(b) whether Varishta Bima Yojana like other insurance-related products of LIC is covered by a sovereign guarantee;

(c) whether there is any proposal to reduce the tenure of the scheme from the originally announced 15 years to 10 years; and

(d) whether the funds of Varishtha Bima Yojana will be administered independently of the insurance premium pool and if so, major features of its deployment by LIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. LIC had informed that as on 6th December, 2003, they have collected Rs. 3625.07 crore deposit under 2,02,460 proposals.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. The fund of Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana is separately maintained and invested according to the IRDA investment regulations.

RRBs in Orissa

1468. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the name and the number of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in Orissa and their sponsored Banks;

(b) the performance of these RRBs during the last three years in priority sector lending separately; and